

treatment of ethnic Russians in Latvia and Estonia, while noting that international observers had found no evidence of human rights violations in those countries. The President expressed the hope that practical solutions could be achieved on this difficult issue. In this regard, the United States welcomes the constructive role played by the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), and the Council of Europe (COE) in helping to promote a resolution of all outstanding differences between Russia and the Baltic countries.

Designation of a Vice Chair and Appointment of Staff Director for the Commission on Civil Rights
September 27, 1993

The President today announced he will designate Commission on Civil Rights member, Cruz Reynoso, as Vice Chair of the Commission and will appoint attorney Stuart J. Ishimaru as Commission Staff Director.

"With their combined experience in civil rights law, Cruz Reynoso and Stuart Ishimaru will bring strength and leadership to the cause of equality in America through their new roles on the U.S. Civil Rights Commission," the President said.

NOTE: Biographies were made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Exchange With Reporters Prior to a Meeting With Congressional Leaders
September 28, 1993

Somalia

Q. Mr. President, have you decided to change your strategy in Somalia, perhaps not go after General Aideed out of concern, perhaps because of congressional criticisms of the mission?

The President. No. The United Nations strategy on the ground has not changed. But I have emphasized to them that every nation involved in that, from the beginning, was in it with the understanding that our first goal was to restore the conditions of normal life there, to stop the killing, to stop the disease,

to stop the famine. And that has been done with broad support among the Somali people, with the exception of that small portion in Mogadishu where General Aideed and his supporters are.

So the enforcement strategy did not change, but what I wanted to emphasize at the U.N. yesterday was that there has to be a political strategy that puts the affairs of Somalia back into the hands of Somalia, that gives every country, not just the United States, every country that comes into that operation the sense that they are rotating in and out, that there is a fixed date for their ultimate disengagement in Somalia, because there's so many other peacekeeping operations in the world that have to be considered and that we owe that to all the nations we ask to participate in peacekeeping over the long run.

So there's been no change in the enforcement strategy, but I have tried to raise the visibility or the urgency of getting the political track back on pace, because in the end every peacekeeping mission or every humanitarian mission has to have a date certain when it's over, and you have to in the end turn the affairs of the country back over to the people who live there. We were not asked to go to Somalia to establish a protectorate or a trust relationship or to run the country. That's not what we went for.

Bosnia

Q. But do you have broader concerns about Bosnia? I mean, there's a similar problem there with no date certain, no exit strategy.

The President. I think there, in that case, the United States is in a much better position to establish, I think, the standards and have some discipline now on the front end. To be fair, I think that everyone involved in Bosnia is perhaps more sensitive than was the case in the beginning of this Somali operation about the—[inaudible]—of it, the dangers of it, and the need to have a strict set of limitations and conditions before the involvement occurs.

Somalia

Q. Given the current situation in Somalia, Mr. President, how do you go about fixing a date certain for withdrawal?

The President. I think one of the things we have to do is assess the conditions. Keep in mind, what we see every night reported now is a conflict between one Somali warlord who started this by murdering Pakistanis in a small portion of Mogadishu. It has very little to do with the whole rest of the country where tribal councils and village councils are beginning to govern the country, where most of the people are living in peace with the conditions of normal life have returned. There are lot of things that need to be sorted through there. And I think that what you'll see in the next few weeks is a real effort by the United Nations to articulate a political strategy. The country can be basically given back to the people who live there.

Q. Do you think you'll be sending troops to Bosnia?

The President. I've made it clear what I believe will happen.

NOTE: The exchange began at 11:16 a.m. in the Cabinet Room at the White House. A tape was not available for verification of the content of this exchange.

Statement on the Death of General James H. Doolittle

September 28, 1993

Lt. General James H. Doolittle's life spanned a period of American history that combined vast technological advancements with unparalleled change in our Nation's world role. At every step along the way, General Doolittle was among this Nation's trusted leaders.

General Doolittle was a pioneer in aviation. An accomplished and acclaimed airman in the years between the World Wars, he helped push the envelope of aviation and ensured that the United States was at the forefront of this emerging technology. When America entered the Second World War, General Doolittle's daring and courage emboldened an anxious and uncertain Nation. He gave the world its first example of

the steel that would allow the United States to lead the Allies to victory. In peacetime, he again served the Nation as a leader in industry and aerospace.

General Doolittle's love for his Nation will long survive him. His willingness to serve his country despite personal danger will long stand as an example of the grit and determination that has driven our Nation since its founding. Hillary joins me in mourning the loss of a patriot, a pioneer, and a hero.

Nomination for Ambassador to Poland

September 28, 1993

The President announced his intention today to nominate Polish-born business consultant Nicholas Rey to be the U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Poland.

"I am very proud of this choice," said the President. "Nicholas Rey has already done much for America in helping Poland along the road to democracy and free markets. I am confident that as our Nation's Ambassador, he will continue to further those important values."

NOTE: A biography of the nominee was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the North American Free Trade Agreement

September 28, 1993

Dear Mr. Leader:

My Administration is now making the final preparations for submitting to the Congress the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA). Over the next several weeks Administration officials will sit down with Congressional Committees and their staffs to hammer out the details of implementing legislation. Let me indicate to you what I regard as a reasonable approach to Congressional consideration of this historic agreement, in